2: Dowson G-5 (1929-30) 1932 MHI Iraq MHI

proper picture of the whole, I have confined myself in these pages t what may be described as the general aspects of the question as distinc from those of particular localities. Nor has anything like the attentio the subject deserves been given to pastoral rights. For while settlement of rights to grazing and pasture is also required, they do not call for such rigid definition, nor is settlement of such rights so urgently needed as of rights to cultivable land, unless the two conflict. Consideration of the Land Revenue system in force when I visited the country has also been omitted, as this system has since been superseded (see ii, 4).

In pursuance of the attempt to restrict attention at this stage to those phases of the problem which call for action first, I have also avoided consideration here of many features or incidentals of existing land tenure, which may be intrinsically of as great importance as others that are examined. Among matters which are not examined in this report for this reason may be mentioned: the various forms of dedication in *waqf*, the conditions of *mulk* tenure, the escheat of tapu tenure for failure to cultivate or failure of heirs, known as *mahlul*, the charge known as *ujr*, the position of newly formed land in a river termed *shati*, the old and new forms of hypothec or mortgage. These almost exclusively affect the registered tenures, and are best considered in the general study and amendment of the land law which is advocated (see vii, 1). Similarly the much-debated question of the conditions under which acquisitive prescription of tapu tenure should come into effect, can have little practical value, until the Government is in a position to implement its statutory tenures. Important established customs affecting State Domain, which are not entered into for the same reason are the *mugharisa* and *ta'aba* systems of planting and tending gardens and groves.

Finally, I have thought it best, on these grounds also, to restrict detailed discussion of proposed measures to those required for the initial execution of reform. While the character of measures that would be required subsequently to conserve the benefits attained by reform have had to be indicated, no attempt is made to formulate them in detail.

Even generalised and truncated in these ways the main problem remains a difficult one either to present or to master; but it has not appeared to me possible to simplify it further without distortion. The study of the land tenure of any country, with a view to practical and realisable reform, is no light undertaking; and that undertaking is attended with peculiar difficulties in el 'Iraq for reasons which are explained.

To facilitate reading and reference I have divided this report into nine parts, which I have endeavoured to make as self-contained as possible. This necessitates some repetition and discontinuity on consecutive reading; but it is impossible to present this intricate question in any readily digestible form. The subject matter of each of these parts is given on the contents page and need not be repeated. The last alone calls for explanation. It has been written in response to numerous inquiries, official and otherwise, when I was in el 'Iraq, regarding the wider setting of the problems of land tenure in relation to the general development of the country as a whole and to the other great ameliorative movements needed. It concludes with a summary of the main recommendations made. It is hoped that this part of the report may be of assistance to those who, while impressed with the critical importance of a constructive reform of land tenure, may be unable to study the whole of this report textually.

2: Dowson G-5 (1929-30) 1932 MHI Iraq MHI.

The influence of these confederations waxed and waned with changing personalities and circumstances. The original tribes (ashaiyir) of el 'Iraq were, of course, pastoral nomads following the grass with their herds of camels, sheep and goats. As throughout history generally, when they found that cultivation was economically advantageous they began to settle. Without going into earlier happenings, it is evident that the Ottoman Government were never in a position to exercise any systematic control of the large areas of miri land throughout the country. Under the conditions that commonly prevailed the authority of the Government ran slowly outside the larger towns, while for the most part the effective local and social units were the tribal confederations or their component groups. These groups, larger or smaller according to circumstances, occupied and used such areas of land as they desired and were able to hold against rivals. The territorial hold of tribal groups naturally varied in stability. It varied with the varying power of rival or associated groups and their need for the land. And it was doubtless always amenable to special exertions of authority on the part of the Central Government. But subject to such vicissitudes, innumerable tribal groups exercised the effective control of miri land from day to day throughout the majority of the country.

When land was brought under cultivation a prescriptive right to such occupation was usually asserted. These claims were not limited to the parcels actually tilled, for cultivation shifted annually to offset the exhaustion of the soil and in response to other variables, while provision for prospective cultivation was also included. Such provision for the future was of particular importance in the rice areas, where the rice-growing fringes of the land encroach slowly year by year on the marshes. In these valuable tracts the rivalry between adjoining tribal groups is now intense and calls insistently for competent independent regulation in the general interests of rice cultivation and the orderly development of the steadily advancing waterways. Elsewhere, apart from favoured spots, where special facilities for irrigation or fruit-growing exist, there is still a dearth of the agricultural population needed for the development of the country.

Prescriptive claims to pasture wandering flocks and herds still remain more extensive than such claims to cultivation: and, although they preponderantly apply to the bordering desert and steppe, they also affect the regularly cultivated areas. Indeed the right to browse flocks on immature barley (ghasil) is still widely practised.

All these customary prescriptive claims to rights of cultivation or pasture, may be asserted long after the uses on which they are based have ceased. Thus I heard of numerous cases of tribal groups who had migrated from one district to another, possibly many years ago, and yet on due occasion advanced prescriptive claims to the area they had abandoned as stoutly as they maintained their right to the lands they had since occupied and used. These occasions were usually some favourable change in the conditions of the abandoned area, e.g. the provision of irrigation facilities previously lacking. It need hardly be suggested that deliberate voluntary abandonment of the use of an area for any purpose should extinguish any prescriptive claim to such use.

3. A great impulse has been given to the permanent settlement of the tribesmen during the last decade by the improvement—almost the creation—of communications, by the growth of law and order, by the installation of pumps throughout the riverain tracts, and by the taste for modern civilisation induced by such things as motor cars, gramophones, better dwellings, more frequent visits to towns. Throughout the countryside the camel hair tent of the Bedu' has been giving way to the

135 (2) The Supply of RAW MATERIALS AND POWER: Iraq is potentially
233 rich in many kinds of raw materials. In the first place it has abun-
241 dant supplies of oil and gas which provide a cheap source of both
133 raw material and fuel. Secondly, it has pastoral and agricultural products such as wool, camel hair, hides and skins, meat, fish, milk, animal fat. Thirdly, it has fertile land which, with the extension of irrigation, can be a rich source of such raw materials as sugar beets, sugar cane, soybeans and jute, in addition to products already available such as tobacco, cotton, sesame, linseed, and practically all types of grain, fruits and vegetables. Finally, recent geological surveys have located outcrops of iron, copper, zinc and chrome ores. There are deposits of sulphurs, apparently of commercial value, in many parts of Iraq, and of salt, especially near Basrah. Yet each of these resources presents a different problem; none is easily exploitable (except oil); quantities available for industry are limited and the quality frequently poor. Agriculture has been kept at a low level of output because of the lack of irrigation schemes in most parts of the country; the difficulties caused by the present land tenure system and the agricultural techniques connected with the tribal system, which covers over 80 per cent of the cultivated area; the absence of an effective agricultural extension service and lack of modern storing facilities; these and other factors have held back both quantity and quality of agricultural and animal products. There was a noticeable extension in the cultivation of cotton in recent years, but the severe failure of the crop in 1951, owing to a pest attack, has been a great set-back. Difficulties in the supply of raw materials have held up many an industrial enterprise. The scheme for a sugar factory which has been under discussion since 1947 has had to be postponed from one year to another owing to the uncertainties connected with the
[28] cultivation of both sugar beet and sugar cane. The progress of the leather tanning industry, one of the oldest industries in Iraq, has been retarded due to the existing conditions in which hides and skins have been prepared and preserved, and great losses to this particularly native industry have resulted. The woollen textile
[289] mills have had to import certain qualities of Australian wool to mix with Iraqi wool which is of a coarse variety.

135 So far as mineral resources are concerned the surveys that have been made are insufficient.[1] Further exploration work is

1 As of writing, in July 1953.

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

241 [387] yields. As will be indicated later, inorganic fertilizers could probably be produced cheaply in Iraq and organic fertilizers could be produced as by-products of the slaughtering industry.

231 4. Livestock Improvement

The productivity of livestock is extremely low, primarily because of inadequate feed supply. In addition to the production of fodder crops, measures should be taken to improve natural pasture lands, particularly in the northern mountains, which have generally suffered from over-grazing. Reseeding and rotational grazing are necessary. Productivity could be further raised by the establishment of shelters, better breeding methods, especially the introduction of new and improved sires and maintenance of stud stations, and by more effective control of parasitic diseases through an increase in the number of veterinarians and the provision of more extensive diagnostic facilities in the provinces.

The quality of livestock products could be raised considerably by a number of measures. One of these is an improvement in the practices and more stringent sanitary supervision of abattoirs. Others would be the establishment of a number of wool shearing and grading units under the guidance of an appropriate expert; appointment of a hides and skins expert to serve as general manager of the newly established Hides and Skins Association; and recruitment of an abattoir specialist to train local abattoir supervisors in improved methods of flaying and preserving hides and skins.

234 At present, even the major cities are without a clean, safe milk supply. The supply of milk could be substantially improved by better feeding of livestock, concentration of milking cattle in well-equipped settlements on the outskirts of cities, and central collection, transportation and processing of milk under strict sanitary controls. The possibility of cooperative collection and processing of milk should be explored.

231 [233] Since the nomads and semi-nomads, who may number from 200,000 to 500,000, account for a large proportion of the livestock in the country, particularly sheep and goats, their needs must receive special attention. Measures should be taken, for instance, to provide them with better watering facilities, sheep-dipping stations,

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

311 waters of the twin rivers are largely wasted and periodically unloosen disastrous floods upon Baghdad and the alluvial plain to the south.

The Rain-fed Zone

244 438 In the upland plains of the rain-fed zone stretching from Northern Mosul to Suleimaniya, wheat and barley are the principal crops. Rainfall is generally inadequate for summer crops, although water from streams and springs permit cultivation of rice and cotton. In part of this area, especially Northern Mosul, there has been a rapid extension of cultivation with the help of modern agricultural machinery.

233 438 241 To the north and northeast lie the mountain massifs of Iraq. Here the raising of cattle, sheep and goats by Kurdish nomads is one of the principal occupations. The mountains are largely barren of trees but offer natural pasture for animals. In the valleys and on hillsides grain, tobacco, timber and fruit are grown. Tobacco, although small in area, is an important cash crop.

438 433 [315] Except for some handicrafts, there is little native industry in this region. Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq, is principally a commercial center and an outlet for exports to Syria and Lebanon. Kirkuk, however, is the center of most of Iraq's petroleum production and one of the largest and richest oil fields in the world. Oil fields of subsidiary importance also exist at Ain Zaleh in Mosul province and near Khanaqin in Diyala province. The mountains of the North may ultimately yield other minerals such as copper, chrome and iron.

The Irrigation Zone

133 311 South of the rain-fed zone the river valleys may be divided into three major regions: the upper river valleys; the lower river valley down to Amara and Nasiriya; and the triangular area from Nasiriya and Amara to the mouth of the Shatt al Arab.

The first of these regions includes most of the northern Jezireh and the area north of Baghdad and east of the Tigris. The latter area still awaits irrigation for the most part, and the Jezireh is hardly susceptible to irrigation because of the elevation and configuration of the land. The Jezireh is an upland plateau

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

country's foreign trade. Near it is the country's second largest oil field.

To the south and southwest of the irrigation zone lie the vast arid tracts known as the southern and northern deserts which comprise about 40 percent of the land area of Iraq. These are sparsely inhabited by roaming nomads who raise camels, goats and sheep and annually take their flocks into the river valleys in search of summer pasture.

II. The People

The first official census of the settled population in Iraq was taken in 1947 and preliminary statistics on the male and female population of each province have already been published.[1] The preliminary estimate of the enumerated population was approximately 4.6 million. This figure has been brought up to 4.8 million in the published statistics by adding a rough estimate of 200,000 for the nomads in Mosul province and in the provinces along the Euphrates. Like all other countries at a similar stage of development, Iraq has a very young population, about half being under the age of 20. Although no reliable vital statistics are available, all indications point on the one hand to a very high rate of mortality among infants and young children, and on the other, to a correspondingly high birth rate. Even under the present poor health conditions the population seems to have been increasing at a rate conjectured to be in the region of one to one and a half percent per annum. Whatever the present rate, however, it is clear that, if full advantage is taken of the ample opportunity to improve health

[1] Considering the attendant difficulties, this census may be judged a success. The information about the people of Iraq which it has already yielded and, more especially, which it can yield when tabulation is completed, is without doubt far more reliable than any estimates previously made. However, as with most first attempts at census-taking, the results have to be interpreted with great caution. Besides the figures already published, the Mission had access to certain unpublished data on four provinces—Baghdad, Mosul, Kirkuk and Basra. Much of the description of the population which follows is based on this data, but it must be noted that, although allowance was made for the fact that these four provinces are a most imperfect cross-section of the country, this fact is an additional limitation to the validity of any but the broadest conclusions.

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

value of the country's total exports, other than oil, in the years 1948-1950. Citrus fruit, grown for domestic consumption, is of considerable importance in the Diyala River valley and substantial quantities of other fruits and nuts, although of rather poor quality and marketability, are grown in the North, especially in Sulei-maniya and Erbil. Vegetable culture is of particular importance in the neighborhood of large cities.

Agricultural yields are generally low, although most of the soil is inherently quite fertile. Barley yields, for instance, are about 30 to 35 percent less than those in Canada and the United States and probably slightly less than those of Turkey and Iran. Little or no animal manure or fertilizer is applied, animal dung being used largely for fuel. Salinity attributable to poor drainage has materially lowered productivity of land in the irrigation zone. The soil is often poorly prepared, and weeds detract from the yields. Chief reliance is placed on the fallow system to restore soil fertility, but, since fallow land is often allowed to go up in weeds on which animals graze, its efficacy is limited.

The raising of livestock is an important industry. Sheep and goats predominate because they thrive despite poor grazing and feeding.

TABLE 6

ESTIMATE OF LIVESTOCK POPULATION, 1949-50

Sheep	7,489,700
Goats	1,754,300
Cattle	1,034,600
Buffaloes	200,700
Camels	279,200
Horses	183,800
Mules	66,850
Donkeys	326,400

Sheep and goats, as well as camels, are kept primarily by pastoral nomads who probably number well over 200,000. Cattle and water buffaloes are the livestock of the settled agricultural

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

consequence not only of the increase in population, but also of the shift from the rural areas, where barley is often a staple element in the diet.

Large quantities of rice are produced, but the surplus for export has always been very small. The only other cereal exported in any quantity is millet.

Animal Produce. The principal animal products exported by Iraq are wool, live animals, hides and skins and casings (intestines), usually in that order of importance. The sheep is the main source of these products, providing all the wool and usually the bulk of the other products. As with dates and cereals, the quantities exported vary greatly from year to year, sheep being vulnerable not only to disease, but also to extremes of winter cold and summer drought. In contrast with the other main exports, however, there has been no tendency for exports of animal products to increase. Exports of wool, hides and skins have, on the whole, been below prewar levels, while those of casings have fallen off badly. As animals are often taken across the frontier on the hoof, customs returns of live animals exported are not reliable. The recorded decrease since before the war, is, however, too large to be discounted.

Information on the animal population and on the domestic consumption of meat and other products is sketchy and unreliable. A rise in the consumption of meat could well explain the loss of exports of live animals, but this in turn would tend to make available a larger, not smaller, supply of most by-products. Part of the explanation of the fall in export products may lie in a declining sheep population owing to the gradual shift from the pastoral life to settled agriculture and from agriculture to the towns. The monograph on agriculture and animal husbandry discusses the shortcomings of the livestock industry and recommends measures to improve livestock raising and the quality of livestock products. The value of exports of animal products is likely to continue its downward trend unless these measures are undertaken speedily and vigorously.

Sheep are especially important as a potential source of dollars. Wool is the most important export to the United States, which also takes all the casings exported and considerable quantities of

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

farming basis, including crops, horticulture and livestock in its program. From the livestock point of view it should be a demonstration of the production of milk, eggs and poultry under irrigation conditions to meet urban requirements in the Baquba and Baghdad areas; a lesson in improved feeding, breeding and management, and, above all, in mixed farming. [232]

Northern Area:

1. Flocks of Karadi sheep should be established at Nineveh and Bakrajo, a herd of northern black cattle at Bakrajo, and a herd of Sharabi cattle at Nineveh. Improved foundation stock or even purebred sires of the black mountain breed of cattle might be brought in from Turkey.
2. For mule breeding, selected foundation stock (jacks) might be introduced from Cyprus to meet the mountain and hill requirements of this northern area.

Special measures will need to be taken to assist the nomads in improving their livestock. Aside from the veterinary assistants which might be attached to the tribes, it would be desirable to train a few members of each tribe in such a way that they can give advice and assistance on other livestock matters, including the development of better breeds with the help of selected sires procured from the government. Better pasturage is, however, the critical question. In view of the difficulty of increasing the feed supply for the livestock of the nomads in the South, their problem may be best met in the end by converting an increasing number to mixed farming as new areas are irrigated. Some help may be given by investigating the possibility of conserving existing desert forage plants and introducing new drought-resistant grasses and herbs. For the northern nomads better watered natural grazing lands are available. Unfortunately these lands have been badly [233] abused, and, in the Northeast in particular, a considerable portion has been overgrazed so severely that scarcely any palatable forage remains. Regulations to enforce rotational grazing are urgently needed. Reseeding of the worst areas would not be impossible and would certainly reap large dividends. Controlled grazing is particularly necessary to safeguard the scanty forest areas. For this purpose it is suggested that the migration routes for livestock in the North be fixed in consultation with the Forestry Department.

8:Campbell T-5 (no date) 1949 MH1 Iraq MH1

PREFACE

000 IN Victorian days it was customary to preface a translated work with an apology for imperfections in the translation. I would say that I am not an interpreter such as those of the United Nations, who can listen to a long speech in one language and who afterwards can render it accurately and with perfect memory in another language. I am also conscious that these stories when told with a wealth of gesture and expression of face and voice were things of vivid beauty like rare butterflies, and in reducing them to paper it is as if they have been killed and pinned in a collector's cabinet.

101 These stories belong to the great Shia tribes of Southern
361 Iraq. I first came into contact with these tribes when,
233 coming over from the Western Desert in the winter of 1942, I halted on the road near Ur, and engaged a couple of likely-looking tribesmen to show me what local shooting there was, and to act as guides. The next day we drove far into the desert after bustard, and coming over a rise in the ground we saw before us a group of long, low, black tents; in my ignorance I turned to my two guides and asked them what the tribe of these bedouin was. Their faces registered horror and surprise, and they said: 'Those are not bedouin; they are Arabs.' Not having been previously aware of this distinction, I asked them how they told the difference between bedouin and Arab. They replied: 'We thought because you speak Arabic you

8:Campbell T-5 (no date) 1949 MH1 Iraq MH1

would know the difference.' They went on to point out large numbers of sheep dotted around the horizon and they explained that had there been a large number of camels with a few sheep, then bedouin would have been indicated. Instead there was a large number of sheep with a few camels, indicating Arabs. They had to go on to explain that by Arabs they meant the great landowning Shia tribes, who are in the main cultivators of rice, dates, barley and a variety of other crops, but they send out their sheep on long treks through the desert in charge of some of their families in search of grass.

Most of the Arab tribes are dwellers in houses or clean, cool huts made of reed matting, which allows for a constant current of air through the hut, and prevents the temperature from rising to that of an oven in the hot sun, like a house. Many of these stories were told in a large guest house or tent pitched amongst the houses, with a background of sound varying from that of the cooking of a meal of several roast sheep to the powerful thump, thump, thump, of the great pumps. These pumps deserve mention, since they are often a tribe's principal pride and source of wealth. At one place I was surprised to hear that a boy's name was Rustam, since this name is more common amongst Persians and Kurds than amongst Arabs, but it was explained to me that he was named after the pump, and I understood when I saw the name Rustom stamped on an iron plate on the great cylinder.

The Arab tribes have a great military history of which they are justly proud. It is long and somewhat complicated, and to give in full the history of a single tribe as told by the sheikhs would fill a book greater in size than this. I will, however, give a précis of the history of that great group of tribes which were known as the Muntafiq.

2; United Nations U-4 (no date) 1950 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH 1

241 2. Fruit, especially dates: it is estimated that Iraq's date crop accounted for 80 per cent of world production in some years; the largest harvests came from the regions south of Baghdad, including the Euphrates Valley (between the northern district of Hilla and Nasiriya), south-east of Ana, and especially in the valley of the Shatt al-Arab, notably in the Basra region; large quantities are exported. Other crops are oranges in the Mosul region and north of Baghdad (Baquba and Mandali), grapes (north of Mosul), cotton in the Baghdad region, cane from Hilla and Diyala; tobacco is also grown, especially between Baquba and Mandali.

Stock-raising

● 239 Stock-raising represents an important factor of Iraqi economy. The principal areas are as follows: for sheep, the region of the upper Diyala (a tributary of the Tigris), and the southern part of Sulaimaniya (wool is exported for carpet manufacture); for goats, the Tigris Valley, especially the right bank, near Samarra; camels are raised mainly in the south-west of the country, south of Rutba; horses, mules and asses are reared more or less everywhere.

25: Warriner S-5 (no date) 1948 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH1

sections or clans, under the direction of the sirkal, the head of the clan, who organized the members of the tribe on a share-cropping basis, the peasants generally taking a half, two-fifths, or a third of the produce.

But even on these individual holdings communal ownership is manifested in several ways: for instance by the fact that sub-tribal chiefs can be shifted from their holdings by the tribal chiefs; by the right of pre-emption and veto exercised by the tribe over transfer of land from one member to another, and especially to outsiders; the fact that women are excluded from inheriting land; the moral duty of employing members of the tribe in preference to outsiders; and in certain parts of the country, reallotment of the land on the *mushaa* system.[1]

The method of farming necessitates the existence of some measure of communal cultivation and ownership. Cultivation by irrigation involves many duties which cannot be performed by one household—the clearance of canals, the building of dams across channels, and the strengthening of the river banks; all these functions require tribal organization. Hence the head of the clan, the sirkal, was originally a manager on behalf of the tribe; he employed the peasants and divided the land among them into plots to support them until the harvest, appointed the dates of sowing, harvesting, and threshing, and organized irrigation and canal clearance.

Thus, although the tribe exercises a right of occupancy over the tribal *dirah* and can prove occupation of the whole area, it cannot be proved in the same sense that the peasant has a certain plot of his own occupied for a number of years. Within the tribal *dirah*, the area cultivated by each group shifts as canals silt up and the land is impoverished by salt, and so the area cultivated by each peasant shifts also. The peasants themselves are largely mobile, both within the tribal *dirah* and outside it; cultivation is rather half-hearted and grazing remains an alternative occupation.

It must be remembered that the tribal system, when it prevailed generally, had no legal basis, and no protection from the State; the tribe was, in fact, in itself a unit of political organization, and itself performed the State's functions. Within the

[1] From an unpublished report by Dr Salih Haider, on 'The Problem of the Land in Iraq' (1944).

29:Dunn S-4 (1952)1952 Ml Middle East
Iraq MHI

241 substantial surplus of barley for export. Sugar and tea are about the only agricultural commodities always imported.[39]

PRODUCTION

Agriculture in Iraq is devoted largely to the cultivation of winter crops. Because of the lack of rain in the south, summer crops can be grown only under irrigation. In the rain-fed zone of the north, summer crops can be grown on a moderate scale. In the irrigated zone of central and southern Iraq the limited water supply restricts the area devoted to summer crops to only about one-quarter of that grown to winter crops.

Barley and wheat are the only significant winter crops, while rice and, more recently, cotton are the principal summer crops. The area sown to sesame, corn, millet, and grain sorghum is comparatively insignificant. Tobacco assumes some importance in the mountainous areas of the north. Fruit and vegetables are quite important. Iraq is the world's principal producer and exporter of dates. Excellent citrus fruit is grown, particularly in the Diyala Valley in east central Iraq for domestic consumption, and other fruits and nuts are cultivated, mainly in the north.

233 Livestock raising is an adjunct to agriculture rather than an integral part of it. Sheep and goats predominate because they thrive despite poor grazing and feeding. Sheep and goats as well as camels are kept primarily by pastoral nomads.

YIELDS

241 Crop yields are generally low for a number of reasons. The water supply is frequently inadequate. Agricultural methods have on the whole remained unchanged for centuries. Little or no animal manure or fertilizer is applied to the soil, animal dung being used largely for fuel. Crop rotation is wholly inadequate and makes little or no provision for soil building crops. Salinity, attributed to poor drainage, has materially lowered the productivity of land in the irrigated zone. Owing to insufficient and poor draft animals and lack of proper equipment, the soil is often poorly prepared and weeds detract from yields. Up to half of the winter crop area is left in fallow as the means of restoring fertility, but since the land is generally allowed to grow up in weeds to afford grazing for animals, the efficacy of the fallow system is limited.

LAND TENURE

423 427 Ownership of cultivated lands is largely in the hands of sheiks and urban proprietors who entrust the actual cultivation in small parcels to sharecroppers. These sharecroppers have neither the equipment nor the knowledge to increase production and for the most part eke out a bare existence. The land assigned to the *Fellah*, or peasant, often changes from year to year so that the cultivator has virtually no incentive to improve it.

About 67 per cent of the privately-owned land is said to be in units exceeding 618 acres.

Most of the landowners are said to show little interest in improving agriculture. In the irrigated zone the *Fellah* generally gets only half of the crop, even though the state provides the irrigation works. His share is even smaller when the land is irrigated by privately-owned pumps or when the landlords supply seed, draft animals, or machinery.

---

[39] "Iraq." *International Reference Service*, March, 1950.

241 commercial crops in the rain-fed zones of the north; dates, cereals and cotton, in the south. The date-palm groves in the irrigated lands along the Shatt al Arab and the Euphrates rivers, and in scattered areas along the Tigris, furnish almost one third of the 233 world's supply of dates. Sheep, goats, cattle and other livestock are raised in large numbers by the nomadic and the seminomadic 439 peoples. The chief agricultural exports are dates, barley and other grains, cotton, wool, hides and licorice: this last-named item grows wild in many localities in the south.

242 The government is promoting the adoption of modern methods of farming and animal husbandry and the expansion of irrigation facilities. It operates special agricultural schools and experimental farms in different parts of the country, as well as a date research station near Basra. Within the last few years it has initiated settlement and demonstration projects on state lands at Dujayla, near Kut; at Shahrizor, near Sulaimaniya; at Huwaija, near Kirkuk; and at Sinjar, near Mosul.

135 With the exception of the oil reserves, the mineral resources of Iraq are negligible. Small deposits of lignite, gypsum, sulfur and other minerals are known to exist in the north, while salt beds are found in widely 472 distributed areas. Industrial development is 438 slight, in spite of the impetus supplied by the shortage of materials during the recent war years. Small craft industries flourish in the urban centers, and a few modern factories have been established in Baghdad and Mosul for the processing of local products. These consist primarily of plants for the manufacture of textiles, cement, bricks, distilled liquors, soaps and cigarettes.

135 The petroleum industry has expanded rapidly since the discovery of oil, in 1927, at Baba Gurgur, in the Kirkuk region. The reserves, which are reputed to be among the richest in the Middle East, provide a pri- 471 mary source of wealth for the country. The Iraq Petroleum Company holds concessions, originally granted in 1925, covering the lands east of the Tigris River and north

241 tables in season. Citrus fruits flourish in the irrigated areas of Kerbela province and in the Diyala river valley, while grapes, apricots and other fruits grow in various localities. Numerous species of dates are cultivated, especially in the Shatt al Arab and lower Euphrates basins: they represent one of the basic foods of the people.

511 The financial circumstances of most families prohibit the consumption of meat,
233 except at irregular intervals. Sheep and goats are raised in large numbers, both by the settled and the nomadic peoples, and constitute the principal sources of
224 meat. Fish are a valuable food among
231 the peoples living in the river valleys and along the coast. Fowl are kept in the rural
262 villages. Milk is a standard article of diet
334 wherever it is obtainable. The milk of sheep or goats is most widely used, but that of cows, water buffaloes and camels is utilized in many areas. Milk is normally consumed in the form of buttermilk or a soured milk product, known as *leban*. Cheese is also made, but it is rarely as popular as in other Arab countries. Clarified butter and the fats derived from the tail tissues of the local breeds of sheep are important sources of fat among all population groups.

262 The least diversified diets are probably found among the nomadic tribes, who subsist on the products of their herds, supplemented by dates and wheat or barley breads. Camel's milk is employed by the
[234] nomadic Bedouin. The tribal Arabs of the southern marshes depend largely upon the milk of the water buffalo, fish and wild waterfowl, rice and occasional edible rushes.

146 Measures to raise the standards of nutrition among the various urban and rural groups are being studied by educational and
165 health authorities. Improper feeding in in-
853 fancy, particularly in the course of weaning, which is often deferred until the second year of life, is a factor contributing to the
146 high mortality among young children. The
657 organization of a national nutrition committee, to function in an advisory capacity to the governmental agencies concerned, and